

**Pembroke House Community Garden
Camberwell Southwark United Kingdom
Keepmoat Regeneration Engie**

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Community Engagement

Project overview

We created a manageable garden space for the elderly garden club and other visitors that not only made it easier for them with seated raised planters but also gave access to wheelchair users who couldn't gain access to the entire garden previously. Keepmoat along with volunteers from the church come up with a plan that catered for everyone's needs but made it a space to enjoy. The raised beds that replaced the plastic tubs they had previously were made from recycled scaffold boards and filled with recycled soil. Due to the church being in a very built up urban area the garden has now given many people access to a green space and shown children visiting from a local school how to grow vegetables and plants.

What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?

The site was used as a growing space but

they were being grown out of plastic tubs and small planters that were very old and in need of repair. Two skips of rubbish had to be cleared before we could start works.

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

We decided to carryout the works as they had a fantastic green space that wasn't being used to it's full potential. It was also hard for the elderly garden club to maintain and access. Creating the garden also meant that groups who use the church such as alcoholics anonymous were given a space to go and relax.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

This project has created a large growing space in a garden that was restricted before due to parts of the garden being unusable and hard to maintain. The garden will be managed going forward by the garden club and part time gardener they have employed who also helped to create the garden when we was on site.



Before and after photo of section of the garden

The garden has also been further enhanced by installing a garden room that will allow the garden club to take shelter from the weather as well as a bike rack and shelter to allow staff to ride to work. The garden was mainly made from recycled materials such as scaffold boards, timber from site and recycled soil. A compost bin was also built using recycled pallets.



How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

Further information

In summary four large planters were built to cater for the different age groups that use the garden from primary school children learning in the garden to the elderly age group that maintain the garden every week. A garden room as well as a bike rack and shelter were installed to give the visitors the option of visiting in all weather and to encourage them to cycle. The challenges we faced were clearing the garden to make the space and ensure everyone including people with disabilities had full access and were able to enjoy the garden. The benefits of having the garden are huge as it has now created a space where people go to relax and also to learn. The garden gives back with the vegetables that will be grown year and after year as well as giving a calming space for the various groups that visit.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

As a business we always look at ways of supporting a community with something that will not only be enjoyable but will be sustainable for many years to come. I believe with this initiative we have achieved that and we will continue to support them for as long as we can.



Keepmoat and Pemproke House staff



Wheelchair access planters created